



Billingshurst Primary School
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Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

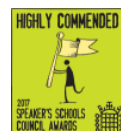
COVID-19 – School Closure and school work

It is with the heaviest of hearts that I write to tell you that the school will be closed from Friday evening and until further notice as directed by the Prime Minister, as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. As yet we are waiting for information about whether we are open next week to provide child care for vulnerable children and key workers. That has, as yet, not been defined or decided by the DfE or West Sussex. As soon as we know the arrangements I will be in contact with you all.

First, the practicalities. Your child will be coming home with a pack of work. For any child not in school on Thursday or from Friday parents will be able to collect the pack from the school office. We will post any remaining packs but would appreciate you collecting them where possible. There is a range of writing, reading, mathematics and topic learning for your child to do. Younger children will need some support but, where possible, do not be afraid to encourage independence. Try to encourage your child to work for a set period of time (20 minutes for youngest to an hour for oldest) and allow them a break before another activity. Try not to replicate the school day entirely or both you and your child will be exhausted! I would suggest a good couple of hours a day on school work indoors, dependent on the age and needs of your child. Also encourage activities such as board games, playing outside (although remaining at a distance from others as much as possible), going for walks, and minimising screen time. And read and read and read and read! Your child will bring books home with them. Depending on how long we are closed, these may not last the duration. As the libraries are closed, encourage your child to read old favourites and appropriate websites – and anything else you can get your hands on! The Lions bookshop is a great source of very cheap books to replenish your supplies. I would be grateful if Year 6 children could return their books to us if this goes on past the end of the academic year!

National Curriculum Tests for 7 and 11 year-old have been cancelled. We will let you know what the impact for Year 6 is when we have more information. Teachers will be able to assess up until the point of closure.

I will not begin to predict how long we will be closed for but we are planning that school will be closed until September. I desperately hope that this is not the case but it seems likely. On our website we have the current homework documents that you can draw on in addition to the pack we are sending home. We will try to keep the website reasonably updated but the most effective and speedy forms of communication will be through Twitter and Facebook. Please make sure you are following one or the other. If we have news we can get this to you as soon as possible. School Comms can take longer.



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<https://www.facebook.com/Billingshurstprimary/>.



@BPShead

Once we know when the school will reopen we will let you know. You will probably hear this through the news at the same time as we do but we will confirm this through social media and School Comms. In the meantime, follow the guidance about social distancing, isolate if you are vulnerable and take care to make sure your children are not out and about the village unsupervised, especially the older children. Protect younger children from too much information about the virus as this can cause anxiety and try very hard not to transmit your own, understandable concerns to them. We are all finding this challenging; our children have even fewer resources to cope with this. Check for updates on the Public Health England website and try not to believe everything you read on social media (except ours!).

For information on the COVID-19 outbreak:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Useful learning websites

Bitesize for primary – both KS1 and KS2

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

National Literacy Trust 'Words for Life' site and Family Learning Zone

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/parents-and-families/>

https://literacytrust.org.uk/familyzone/?mc_cid=ebc2605b91&mc_eid=b8ac9ea635

Times Tables Rock Stars (children have their own logins)

<https://ttrockstars.com/>

BBC History for Kids website

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/>

The Tate Art gallery website for children

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids>

The Science Museum website

<https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/home>

Discover facts at the Natural History Museum site

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover.html>

Please take care, stay healthy and we will see you as soon as possible. We will all miss your children more than we can say and we all look forward to being reunited soon.

Best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

Helen Williamson
Headteacher

